Applicants have included clean and marked-up versions of the pending claims after entry of this amendment with the mailed copy of this Response.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants submit that the claims are in a condition for allowance and action toward that end is earnestly solicited. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit Account No. 10-0447 (47171-00267USC1) for any fees inadvertently omitted which may be necessary now or during the pendency of this application, except for the issue fee.

Dated: October 9, 2001   Respectfully submitted,

John C. Gatz
Reg. No. 41,774
JENKENS & GILCHRIST
1445 Ross Avenue
Suite 3200
Dallas, Texas 75202-2799
312.425.3900

Attorney for Applicants

-2-

164.   A method of evaluating a stack of currency bills using a currency evaluation device comprising:

receiving a stack of bills in an input receptacle of the evaluation device;

transporting the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to one of exactly two output receptacles of the currency evaluation device;

counting and determining the denomination of the bills utilizing a detector positioned along a transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles;

determining whether the bills meet or fail to meet a non-piece count related criterion;

halting the transporting when a bill meets or fails to meet the criterion, a bill meeting or failing to meet the criterion being termed a flagged bill; and

wherein the halting is performed such that the flagged bill is positioned as the last bill in one of the output receptacles.

165.   The method of claim 164 wherein the counting and determining the denomination of the bills comprises counting and determining United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations.

166.   The method of claim 164 wherein the counting and determining of the currency bills is performed independent of the size of the bills.

167.   The method of claim 164 further including receiving denominated bills of more than one denomination in at least one output receptacle.

168.   The method of claim 164 wherein the halting occurs when the denomination of a bill is not determined, a bill whose denomination is not determined being termed a no call bill, and wherein the halting of the no call bill is positioned at an identifiable location in one of the output receptacles.

169.   The method of claim 164 wherein bills whose denomination are determined are delivered to a first output receptacle and wherein bills whose denomination are not determined are directed to a second output receptacle, a bill whose denomination are not determined being termed a no call bill.

170. The method of claim 169 wherein the halting occurs after a no call bill has been delivered to the second output receptacle.

171. The method of claim 170 wherein the halting occurs with the no call bill being positioned at an identifiable location in the second output receptacle.

172. The method of claim 171 wherein the halting occurs with the no call bill being the last bill transported to the second output receptacle, wherein the criteria is the denomination of a bill and wherein a bill failing to meet the criterion of having its denomination determined is a flagged bill.

173. The method of claim 169 wherein the halting occurs before a no call bill has been delivered to the second output receptacle.

174. The method of claim 173 wherein the halting occurs with the no call bill being located at an identifiable location within the transport path.

175. The method of claim 164 further including determining whether a bill is a stranger bill, wherein a bill failing to have its denomination determined is termed a no call bill, and further including delivering stranger bills to a first output receptacle and delivering no call bills to the second output receptacle.

176. The method of claim 164 further including determining whether a bill is a stranger bill and wherein the non-piece count related criterion is a bill being a stranger bill.

177. The method of claim 164 further including determining whether a bill is suspect, a bill determined to be suspect being termed a suspect bill.

178. The method of claim 177 wherein bills whose denomination have been determined are delivered to a first output receptacle and wherein suspect bills are directed to the second output receptacle.

179. The method of claim 178 wherein the halting occurs before a suspect bill has been delivered to the second output receptacle.

180.   The method of claim 179 wherein the halting occurs with the suspect bill being located at an identifiable location within the transport path.

181.   The method of claim 178 wherein the halting occurs after a suspect bill has been delivered to the second output receptacle.

182.   The method of claim 181 wherein the halting occurs with the suspect bill being positioned at an identifiable location in the second output receptacle.

183.   The method of claim 182 wherein the halting occurs with the suspect bill being the last bill transported to the second output receptacle, and wherein the non-piece count criterion is a bill being suspect.

184.   The method of claim 164 wherein the criterion is the denomination of the bill, a bill failing to have its denomination determined being termed a no call bill, and wherein the halting occurs with a no call bill as the last bill in one of the output receptacles.

185.   The method of claim 164 wherein the criterion is a bill being a stranger bill, and wherein the halting occurs with a stranger bill as the last bill in one of the output receptacles.

186.   The method of claim 164 wherein the criterion is a bill being a suspect bill, and wherein the halting occurs with a suspect bill as the last bill in one of the output receptacles.

187.   The method of claim 164 wherein a bill failing to have its denomination determined being termed a no call bill, and further determining whether a bill is a suspect bill.

188.   The method of claim 187 wherein the halting occurs when a bill is determined to be a suspect bill.

189.   The method of claim 188 further including delivering bills whose denomination have been determined and suspect bills to a first output receptacle and delivering no call bills to a second output receptacle.

190.   The method of claim 189 further including determining whether bills are stranger bills, and delivering stranger bills to the second output receptacle.

191.   The method of claim 190 wherein the halting occurs after a no call bill or a stranger bill has been delivered to the second output receptacle.

192.   The method of claim 191 wherein the halting occurs with the no call bill or the stranger bill being the last bill transported to the second output receptacle.

193.   The method of claim 190 wherein the halting does not occur after a no call bill or a stranger bill has been delivered to the second output receptacle.

194.   The method of claim 193 wherein the halting occurs after a suspect bill has been delivered to an output receptacle.

195.   The method of claim 187 further including delivering bills whose denomination have been determined to a first output receptacle and delivering no call bills to a second output receptacle.

196.   The method of claim 195 wherein the halting occurs after a no call bill has been delivered to the second output receptacle.

197.   The method of claim 164 wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, bills of at least two of the denominations having the same dimensions.

198.   The method of claim 164 wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, genuine bills of the plurality of denominations having a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations, and further including scanning the image associated with each of the bills and distinguishing among the plurality of denominations using the scanned image.

199.   A method of evaluating a stack of currency bills and using the currency evaluation device comprising:

receiving a stack of bills in an input receptacle of the evaluation device;

transporting the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to one of exactly two output receptacles of the currency evaluation device along a transport path;

providing a detector in the currency evaluation device that is positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles, the detector being adapted to generate an output signal;

counting and determining the denomination of the bills with the use of the output signal;

determining whether the bills meet or fail to meet a non-piece count related criterion;

halting the transporting when a bill meets or fails to meet the criterion, a bill meeting or failing to meet the criterion being termed a flagged bill; and

wherein the halting is performed such that a flagged bill is positioned as the last bill in one of the output receptacles.

200.   The method of claim 199 wherein the counting and determining the denomination of the bills comprises counting and determining United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations.

201.   The method of claim 199 wherein the counting and determining of the currency bills is performed independent of the size of the bills.

202.   The method of claim 199 wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, bills of at least two of the denominations having the same dimensions.

203.   The method of claim 199 wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, genuine bills of the plurality of denominations having a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations, and further including scanning the image associated with each of the bills and distinguishing among the plurality of denominations using the scanned image.

204.   A method of evaluating a stack of currency bills and using the currency evaluation device comprising:

receiving a stack of bills in an input receptacle of the evaluation device;

transporting the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to one of exactly two output receptacles of the currency evaluation device along a transport path;

counting and determining the denomination of the bills utilizing a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles;

flagging a bill meeting or failing to meet any of a plurality of non-piece count related criteria;

wherein the flagging comprises halting the transporting of the bills in response to a determination that a bill meets or fails to meet at least one of the criteria, the at least one criteria being termed a halting criterion, a bill meeting or failing to meet any of the criteria being termed a flagged bill; and

wherein the halting occurs with a bill satisfying the halting criteria being positioned as the last bill in one of the output receptacles.

205.   The method of claim 204 wherein the counting and determining the denomination of the bills comprises counting and determining United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations.

206.   The method of claim 204 wherein the counting and determining of the currency bills is performed independent of the size of the bills.

207.   The method of claim 204 wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, bills of at least two of the denominations having the same dimensions.

208.   The method of claim 204 wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, genuine bills of the plurality of denominations having a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations, and further including scanning the image associated with each of the bills and distinguishing among the plurality of denominations using the scanned image.

209.   A method of evaluating a stack of currency bills using a compact, high-speed United States currency evaluation device comprising:

receiving a stack of United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations in an input receptacle of the currency evaluation device;

transporting the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to one of exactly two output receptacles of the currency evaluation device at a rate of at least 800 bills per minute;

counting and determining the denomination of the bills including United States bills of a plurality of denominations at a rate of at least 800 bills per minute utilizing a detector positioned along a transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles; and

flagging bills that meet or fail to meet any of certain non-piece count related criteria, a bill meeting or failing to meet any of the criteria being termed a flagged bill; and

wherein the flagging comprises halting the transporting when a bill meets or fails to meet at least one of the criteria.

210. The method of claim 209 further including receiving denominated bills of more than one denomination in at least one output receptacle.

211. The method of claim 209 further including receiving denominated bills of more than one denomination in only one output receptacle.

212. The method of claim 209 wherein the halting occurs with a bill satisfying at least one criteria being positioned as the last bill in one of the output receptacles.

213. The method of claim 209 wherein one of the certain criteria is the denomination of a bill, a bill failing to meet the criterion of having its denomination determined being termed a no call bill, and wherein no call bills are flagged.

214. The method of claim 213 further including determining whether a bill is a stranger bill, wherein one of the certain criteria is a bill being a stranger bill and wherein stranger bills are flagged.

215. The method of claim 214 further including determining whether a bill is a suspect bill, wherein one of the certain criteria is a bill being a suspect bill and wherein suspect bills are flagged.

216. The method of claim 215 wherein the two output receptacles consist of a first output receptacle and a second output receptacle, and further directing stranger bills and no call bills to the first output receptacle and directing suspect bills to the second output receptacle.

217. The method of claim 216 wherein halting occurs when a no call bill or a stranger bill is delivered to the first output receptacle.

218. The method of claim 216 wherein halting does not occur when a no call bill or a stranger bill is delivered to the first output receptacle.

219. The method of claim 209 further including determining whether a bill is a stranger bill and wherein one of the certain criteria is a bill being a stranger bill, and wherein stranger bills are flagged.

220. The method of claim 209 further including determining whether a bill is a suspect bill, wherein one of the certain criteria is a bill being a suspect bill and wherein suspect bills are flagged.

221. The method of claim 209 wherein the counting and determining of the currency bills is performed independent of the size of the bills.

222. The method of claim 209 wherein the halting occurs with a bill that meets or fails to meet the at least one criterion being positioned at an identifiable location in one of the output receptacles.

223. The method of claim 209 wherein the halting occurs with a bill that meets or fails to meet the at least one criterion being positioned at an identifiable location in the transport path.

224. The method of claim 209 wherein the halting occurs with a bill meeting or failing to meet the at least one criterion being located at a predetermined position.

225. The method of claim 209 wherein one of the certain criteria include the denomination of a bill and wherein the halting occurs when a bill fails to meet a criterion of having its denomination determined, a bill failing to meet the criterion of having its denomination determined being termed a no call bill.

226. The method of claim 225 wherein the halting occurs with a no call bill being positioned at an identifiable location in one of the output receptacles.

227. The method of claim 225 wherein the halting occurs with a no call bill being located at a predetermined position.

228. The method of claim 225 further including delivering bills meeting the certain criteria of having their denomination determined to a first output receptacle and directing no call bills to a second output receptacle.

229. The method of claim 228 wherein the halting occurs before a no call bill has been delivered to the second output receptacle.

230. The method of claim 228 wherein the halting occurs after a no call bill has been delivered to the second output receptacle.

231. The method of claim 230 wherein the halting occurs with a no call bill being positioned at an identifiable location in the second output receptacle.

232. The method of claim 231 wherein the halting occurs with a no call bill being the last bill transported to the second output receptacle.

233. The method of claim 209 further including determining whether bills are suspect bills and wherein the halting occurs when a bill meets a criterion of being determined to be a suspect bill.

234. The method of claim 233 further including delivering bills whose denominations have been determined to a first output receptacle and delivering suspect bills to a second output receptacle.

235. The method of claim 234 wherein the halting occurs after a suspect bill has been delivered to the second output receptacle.

236. The method of claim 235 wherein the halting occurs with a suspect bill being positioned at an identifiable location in the second output receptacle.

237. The method of claim 236 wherein the halting occurs with the suspect bill being the last bill transported to the second output receptacle.

238. The method of claim 234 further including delivering bills whose denomination have not been determined to the second output receptacle.

239. The method of claim 238 wherein the halting occurs in response to the denomination of a bill not being determined.

240.   The method of claim 234 further including delivering bills whose denomination have not been determined to the first output receptacle.

241.   The method of claim 209 wherein the certain criteria include the denomination of a bill and wherein the halting occurs when a bill fails to meet a criterion of having its denomination determined, a bill failing to meet a criterion of having its denomination determination being termed a no call bill, and further including determining whether bills are suspect.

242.   The method of claim 241 wherein the halting occurs when a bill meets a second criterion of being determined to be suspect.

243.   The method of claim 242 further including delivering bills whose denomination have been determined to a first output receptacle and directing bills determined to be suspect and bills whose denomination have not been determined to a second output receptacle.

244.   The method of claim 243 wherein the halting occurs after a no call bill or a suspect bill has been delivered to the second output receptacle.

245.   The method of claim 244 wherein the halting occurs with the no call bill or the suspect bill being the last bill transported to the second output receptacle.

246.   The method of claim 241 further including delivering bills whose denomination have been determined to a first output receptacle and directing bills whose denomination have not been determined to a second output receptacle.

247.   The method of claim 246 further including delivering suspect bills to the second output receptacle.

248.   The method of claim 246 further including delivering suspect bills to the first output receptacle.

249.   The method of claim 209 wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, genuine bills of the plurality of denominations having a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the

plurality of denominations, and further including scanning the image associated with each of the bills and distinguishing among the plurality of denominations using the scanned image.

250. A method of evaluating a stack of currency bills using a currency evaluation device comprising:

receiving a stack of bills in an input receptacle of the evaluation device;

transporting the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to one of exactly two output receptacles of the currency evaluation device;

counting and determining the denomination of the bills utilizing a detector positioned along a transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles;

flagging a bill when the denomination of the bills is not determined;

wherein the flagging comprises halting the transporting when a bill is flagged; and

delivering bills that have been denominated including bills of a plurality of denominations to a first output receptacle.

251. The method of claim 250 wherein the counting and determining the denominations of the bills comprising counting and denominating United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations.

252. The method of claim 250 wherein the counting and determining of the currency bills is performed independent of the size of the bills.

253. The method of claim 250 wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, bills of at least two of the denominations having the same dimensions.

254. The method of claim 250 wherein the halting occurs with the bill whose denomination has not been determined being the last bill transported to one of the output receptacles.

255. The method of claim 250 further including delivering bills that have not been denominated to a second output receptacle.

256. The method of claim 255 further including re-stacking denominated bills in a first output receptacle and re-stacking bills which have not been denominated in the second output receptacle.

257.   The method of claim 250 wherein the detector includes a stationary optical scanning head, and further including scanning at least a preselected segment of each bill transported between the input and output receptacles along the transport path by the stationary optical scanning head, producing an output signal from the stationary optical scanning head representing the scanned image, and wherein the determining of the denomination of each scanned bill utilizes the output signal.

258.   The method of claim 250 wherein the transporting is performed at a rate of at least about 800 bills per minute.

259.   A method of evaluating a stack of currency bills using a currency evaluation device comprising:

receiving a stack of bills in an input receptacle of the evaluation device;

transporting the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to one of exactly two output receptacles of the currency evaluation device;

counting and determining the denomination of the bills utilizing a detector positioned along a transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles; and

determining whether the bills are suspect;

flagging a bill that has been determined to be suspect; and

wherein the flagging comprises halting the transport mechanism when a bill is determined to be suspect.

260.   The method of claim 259 wherein the counting and determining the denominations of the bills comprising counting and denominating United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations.

261.   The method of claim 259 wherein the counting and determining of the currency bills is performed independent of the size of the bills.

262.   The method of claim 259 wherein the halting occurs with the suspect bill being the last bill transported to one of the output receptacles.

263.   The method of claim 259 wherein the detector includes a stationary optical scanning head and further including scanning at least a preselected segment of each bill transported between the input and output receptacles, producing an output signal representing the scanned image, and wherein the determining of the denomination of each scanned bill utilizes the output signal.

264. A method of evaluating a stack of currency bills using a high-speed United States currency evaluation device comprising:

receiving a stack of bills in an input receptacle of the currency evaluation device;

transporting the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to one of exactly two output receptacles of the currency evaluation device at a rate of at least 800 bills per minute, at least one of the output receptacles being adapted to receive more than one denomination of bills;

counting and determining the denomination of the bills including United States bills of a plurality of denominations at a rate of at least 800 bills per minute, utilizing a detector positioned along a transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles; and

flagging bills that meet or fail to meet any of certain non-piece count related criteria, a bill meeting or failing to meet any of the criteria being termed a flagged bill; and

wherein the flagging comprises halting the transporting with a flagged bill that meets or fails to meet at least a given set of the criteria positioned in one of the output receptacles.

265. The method of claim 264 wherein the halting occurs with a flagged bill being positioned as the last bill in one of the output receptacles.

266. The method of claim 264 wherein the halting occurs with a flagged bill being located at a predetermined position.

267. The method of claim 264 wherein the certain criteria include the denomination of a bill, a bill failing to meet a criterion of having its denomination determined being termed a no call bill.

268. The method of claim 267 further including determining whether a bill is a stranger bill and wherein the certain criteria include a bill being a stranger bill.

269. The method of claim 268 further including delivering no call bills to a first output receptacle and delivering stranger bills to a second output receptacle.

270. The method of claim 268 further including determining whether a bill is a suspect bill and wherein the certain criteria include a bill being a suspect bill.

14

271. The method of claim 270 further including directing no call bills and stranger bills to a second output receptacle and directing suspect bills to the first output receptacle.

272. The method of claim 271 wherein the halting occurs when a bill is directed to the second output receptacle.

273. The method of claim 271 wherein the halting does not occur when a bill is directed to the second output receptacle.

274. The method of claim 264 further including delivering flagged bills to the second output receptacle.

275. The method of claim 264 further including determining whether a bill is a stranger bill and wherein the certain criteria include a bill being a stranger bill.

276. The method of claim 264 further including determining whether a bill is a suspect bill and wherein the certain criteria include a bill being a suspect bill.

277. The method of claim 264 wherein the counting and determining of the currency bills is performed independent of the size of the bills.

278. The method of claim 264 wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, bills of at least two of the denominations having the same dimensions.

279. The method of claim 264 wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, genuine bills of the plurality of denominations having a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations, and further including scanning the image associated with each of the bills and distinguishing among the plurality of denominations using the scanned image.

280. A method of evaluating a stack of currency bills using a currency evaluation device comprising:
    receiving a stack of bills in an input receptacle of the evaluation device;

transporting the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to one of exactly two output receptacles of the currency evaluation device along a transport path;

counting and determining the denomination of the bills, utilizing at least one detector positioned along a transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles;

generating a characteristic information output signal in response to detected characteristic information via the detector;

electronically coupling the characteristic information output signal;

receiving the characteristic information output signal;

generating a denomination signal in response to the information output signal;

producing tracking signals in response to the physical movement of the bills;

generating a no call signal when the denomination of a bill is not determined;

generating a stopping signal in response to the no call signal;

stopping a transport drive motor in response to the stopping signal; and

directing the bills which have been denominated to a first output receptacle.

281.   The method of claim 280 wherein the counting and determining the denominations of the bills comprising counting and denominating United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations.

282.   The method of claim 280 wherein the counting and determining of the currency bills is performed independent of the size of the bills.

283.   The method of claim 280 wherein the stopping occurs with the bill whose denomination has not been determined being the last bill transported to one of the output receptacles.

284.   The method of claim 280 further including directing bills which have not been denominated to a second output receptacle.

285.   The method of claim 284 further including re-stacking denominated bills in the first output receptacle and re-stacking bills which have not been denominated in the second output receptacle.

286.   The method of claim 280 further including generating a scanned pattern from each of the bills based on the characteristic information output signal, determining the denomination of a bill by comparing the scanned pattern generated from the bill with master patterns associated with different denominations of bills, and storing the master patterns.

287.   The method of claim 286 wherein the detector comprises an optical scanhead and wherein the scanned and master patterns comprise optical patterns.

288.   The method of claim 287 further including correlating the scanned pattern generated from the bill with master patterns associated with different denominations of bills and determining the denomination of the bill if the scanned pattern sufficiently correlates with one of the master patterns.

289.   The method of claim 280 wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, bills of at least two of the denominations having the same dimensions.

290.   The method of claim 280 wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, genuine bills of the plurality of denominations having a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations, and further including scanning the image associated with each of the bills and distinguishing among the plurality of denominations using the scanned image.

291.   A method of evaluating a stack of currency bills using a currency evaluation device comprising:

receiving a stack of bills in an input receptacle of the evaluation device;

transporting the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to one of exactly two output receptacles of the currency evaluation device;

counting and determining the denomination of the bills utilizing a detector positioned along a transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles;

generating a characteristic information output signal in response to detected characteristic information via the detector;

electronically coupling the characteristic information output signal;

receiving the characteristic information output signal;

generating a denomination signal in response to the information output signal;

generating a suspect signal when a bill is determined to be suspect;

producing tracking signals in response to the physical movement of the bills;

generating a stopping signal in response to the suspect signal; and

stopping a transport drive motor in response to the stopping signal.

292.   The method of claim 291 wherein the counting and determining the denomination of the bills comprises counting and determining United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations.

293.   The method of claim 291 wherein the counting and determining of the currency bills is performed independent of the size of the bills.

294.   The method of claim 291 wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, bills of at least two of the denominations having the same dimensions.

295.   The method of claim 291 wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, genuine bills of the plurality of denominations having a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations, and further including scanning the image associated with each of the bills and distinguishing among the plurality of denominations using the scanned image.

296.   A method of evaluating a stack of currency bills using a currency evaluation device comprising:

receiving a stack of bills in an input receptacle of the evaluation device;

transporting the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to one of exactly two output receptacles of the currency evaluation device;

counting and determining the denomination of the bills utilizing a detector positioned along a transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles;

halting the transporting in a predetermined manner in response to a determination that a bill meets a stranger bill criterion and in response to a determination that a bill meets a no call bill criterion; and

wherein a bill which meets the stranger bill criterion is termed a stranger bill, and wherein a bill which meets the no call bill criterion is termed a no call bill.

297.   The method of claim 296 wherein the counting and determining the denominations of the bills comprising counting and denominating United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations.

298. The method of claim 296 wherein the counting and determining of the currency bills is performed independent of the size of the bills.

299. The method of claim 296 wherein the transporting, counting and determining of the currency bills is performed at a rate in excess of 800 bills per minute.

300. The method of claim 296 further including permitting manual removal of a no call or a stranger bill after halting the transporting.

301. The method of claim 300 further comprising restarting the operation of the device via a key after halting the transporting.

302. The method of claim 296 wherein the halting occurs with the bill meeting the stranger bill or non call bill criterion being positioned in one of the output receptacles.

303. The method of claim 296 wherein the halting occurs with the bill meeting the stranger bill or no call bill criterion being positioned as the last bill in one of the output receptacles.

304. The method of claim 296 wherein the halting occurs with the bill meeting the stranger bill or no call bill criterion being located at a predetermined position.

305. The method of claim 296 further including directing denominated currency bills of more than one denomination to at least one of the output receptacles.

306. The method of claim 296 wherein the output receptacles include a second receptacle, and further including delivering the bills meeting the stranger bill or no call bill criterion to the second receptacle.

307. The method of claim 296 further including determining whether bills are suspect and wherein one of a criterion is a bill being a suspect bill.

308. The method of claim 307 wherein the output receptacles include a second receptacle, and further including delivering stranger and no call bills to the second receptacle and wherein suspect bills are delivered to the first output receptacle.

309.   The method of claim 308 wherein the halting occurs when a bill meeting the no call criterion or the stranger criterion is delivered to the second receptacle.

310.   The method of claim 296 wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, bills of at least two of the denominations having the same dimensions.

311.   The method of claim 296 wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, genuine bills of the plurality of denominations having a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations, and further including scanning the image associated with each of the bills and distinguishing among the plurality of denominations using the scanned image.

[312.   A method of evaluating a stack of currency bills using a currency evaluation device comprising:

receiving a stack of bills in an input receptacle of the evaluation device;

transporting the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to one of exactly two output receptacles of the currency evaluation device, the two output receptacles being a first output receptacle and a second output receptacle;

counting and determining the denomination of the bills including bills of a plurality of denominations utilizing a detector positioned along a transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles;

routing bills having a target denomination to the first output receptacle,

routing bills having any other of the plurality of denominations to the second output receptacle; and

presenting no call bills in one of the output receptacles.

313.   The method of claim 312 wherein the counting and determining the denominations of the bills comprising counting and denominating United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations.

314.   The method of claim 312 wherein the counting and determining of the currency bills is performed independent of the size of the bills.

~~315. The method of claim 312 wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, genuine bills of the plurality of denominations having a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations, and further including scanning the image associated with each of the bills and distinguishing among the plurality of denominations using the scanned image.~~

~~316. A method of evaluating a stack of currency bills using a currency evaluation device comprising:~~

~~receiving a stack of bills in an input receptacle of the evaluation device;~~

~~transporting the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to one of exactly two output receptacles of the currency evaluation device, the two output receptacles being a first output receptacle and a second output receptacle;~~

~~counting and determining the denomination of the bills including bills of a plurality of denominations utilizing a detector positioned along a transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles;~~

~~determining the face orientation of the bills;~~

~~routing bills having a target denomination and a target face orientation to the first output receptacle;~~

~~routing bills having the target denomination and a face orientation opposite the target face to the second output receptacle; and~~

~~presenting bills not having the target denomination in one of the output receptacles.~~

~~317. The method of claim 316 wherein the counting and determining the denominations of the bills comprising counting and denominating United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations.~~

~~318. The method of claim 316 wherein the counting and determining of the currency bills is performed independent of the size of the bills.~~

~~319. The method of claim 316 wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, genuine bills of the plurality of denominations having a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations, and further including scanning the image associated with each of the bills and distinguishing among the plurality of denominations using the scanned image.~~

320. A method of evaluating a stack of currency bills using a currency evaluation device comprising:

receiving a stack of bills in an input receptacle of the evaluation device;

transporting the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to one of exactly two output receptacles of the currency evaluation device, the two output receptacles being a first output receptacle and a second output receptacle;

counting and determining the denomination of the bills including bills of a plurality of denominations utilizing a detector positioned along a transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles;

monitoring whether any bills are present in the first and second output receptacles;

routing bills having a first target denomination to the first output receptacle;

routing bills having a second target denomination to the second output receptacle;

upon encountering a bill having neither the first target denomination nor the second target denomination; then

a) stopping the operation of the device if both the first and the second output receptacles have one or more bills therein; or

b) routing the bill having neither the first target denomination nor the second target denomination to an empty one of the first and second output receptacles if one of the output receptacles is empty and resetting the first target denomination to be the denomination of the bill if the bill is routed to the first output receptacle and resetting the second target denomination to be the denomination of the bill if the bill is routed to the second output receptacle.

321. The method of claim 320 wherein the counting and determining the denominations of the bills comprising counting and denominating United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations.

322. The method of claim 320 wherein the counting and determining of the currency bills is performed independent of the size of the bills.

323. The method of claim 320 wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, genuine bills of the plurality of denominations having a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations, and further including scanning the image associated with each of the bills and distinguishing among the plurality of denominations using the scanned image.

324. A method of evaluating a stack of currency bills using a currency evaluation device comprising:

receiving a stack of bills in an input receptacle of the evaluation device;

transporting the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to one of exactly two output receptacles of the currency evaluation device, the two output receptacles being a first output receptacle and a second output receptacle;

counting and determining the denomination of the bills including bills of a plurality of denominations utilizing a detector positioned along a transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles;

monitoring whether any bills are present in the first and second output receptacles;

routing bills having a first target denomination to the first output receptacle;

generating a denomination-change error upon first encountering a bill not having the first target denomination;

designating a second target denomination to be the denomination of the bill causing generating the first denomination change error upon the first occurrence of a denomination change error;

routing bills having a second target denomination to the second output receptacle;

upon encountering a bill having neither the first target denomination nor the second target denomination, then generating a denomination change error and

a) stopping the operation of the device if both the first and the second output receptacles have one or more bills therein; or

b) routing the bill having neither the first target denomination nor the second target denomination to an empty one of the first and second output receptacles if one of the output receptacles is empty and resetting the first target denomination to be the denomination of the bill if the bill is routed to the first output receptacle and resetting the second target denomination to be the denomination of the bill if the bill is routed to the second output receptacle.

325. The method of claim 324 wherein the counting and determining the denomination of the bills comprises counting and determining United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations.

326. The method of claim 324 wherein the counting and determining of the currency bills is performed independent of the size of the bills.

[327. The method of claim 324 wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, genuine bills of the plurality of denominations having a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations, and further including scanning the image associated with each of the bills and distinguishing among the plurality of denominations using the scanned image.]